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Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1-19. (Cancelled).

20. (Previously presented) A method for treating hyperphosphataemia, in an animal in need thereof, which comprises administering to said animal, a therapeutically effective amount of a solid mixed metal compound having a phosphate binding capacity, and comprising the compound obtained as a precipitate from a solution of a mixture of metallic salts, free from aluminum, and containing iron (III) and at least one additional metal selected from the group consisting of magnesium, calcium, lanthanum and cerium, said compound having a phosphate binding capacity of at least 30%, as measured by any of the following tests methods (1) or (2), over a pH range of from 3 to 7;

- (1) adding 1 gram of said solid mixed metal compound to 25 ml of 40 mmol Γ^{-1} sodium phosphate buffer solution, homogenizing and gently agitating at room temperature of 30 minutes, centrifuging at 3000 rpm for 5 minutes, filtering through 0.22 μm millipore filter and measuring the soluble phosphate in the supernatant thus produced;
- (2) adding 1 gram of said solid mixed metal compound to 25 ml of 20 mmol Γ^{-1} sodium phosphate buffer solution, homogenizing and gently agitating at room temperature for 30 minutes, centrifuging at 3000 rpm for 5 minutes, filtering through 0.22 μm millipore filter and measuring the soluble phosphate in the supernatant thus produced.

21-26. (Cancelled).

27. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 20, wherein the solid mixed metal compound contains hydroxyl ions and/or carbonate ions.

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28. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 27, wherein the solid mixed metal further contains sulphate, chloride, oxide or mixtures thereof.

29. (Previously presented) A method for treating hyperphosphataemia, in an animal in need thereof, which comprises administering to said animal, a therapeutically effective amount of a solid mixed metal oxide compound having phosphate binding capacity, and comprising the compound obtained as a precipitate from a solution of a mixture of metallic salts, free from aluminum, and containing iron (III) and at least one additional metal selected from the group consisting of magnesium, calcium, lanthanum and cerium, said compound having a phosphate binding capacity of at least 30%, as measured by any of the following test methods (1) or (2), over a pH range of from 2 to 8;

- (1) adding 1 gram of said solid mixed metal compound to 25 ml of 40 mmol l⁻¹ sodium phosphate buffer solution, homogenizing and gently agitating at room temperature of 30 minutes, centrifuging at 3000 rpm for 5 minutes, filtering through 0.22 µm millipore filter and measuring the soluble phosphate in the supernatant thus produced;
- (2) adding 1 gram of said solid mixed metal compound to 25 ml of 20 mmol l⁻¹ sodium phosphate buffer solution, homogenizing and gently agitating at room temperature for 30 minutes, centrifuging at 3000 rpm for 5 minutes, filtering through 0.22 µm millipore filter and measuring the soluble phosphate in the supernatant thus produced.

30. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 29, wherein the solid mixed metal compound contains hydroxyl ions and/or carbonate ions.

31. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 30, wherein the solid mixed metal further contains sulphate, chloride, oxide or mixtures thereof.

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32. (Previously presented) A method for treating hyperphosphataemia, in an animal in need thereof, which comprises administering to said animal, a therapeutically effective amount of a solid mixed metal compound having phosphate binding capacity, and comprising a hydroxy carbonate containing iron (III) and magnesium metals, further containing sulphate, chloride, oxide or mixtures thereof and free from aluminum, and having a phosphate binding capacity of at least 30% by weight, as measured by any of the test methods (1) or (2), over a pH range of 2 to 8;

- (1) adding 1 gram of said solid mixed metal compound to 25 ml of 40 mmol l⁻¹ sodium phosphate buffer solution, homogenizing and gently agitating at room temperature of 30 minutes, centrifuging at 3000 rpm for 5 minutes, filtering through 0.22 µm millipore filter and measuring the soluble phosphate in the supernatant thus produced;
- (2) adding 1 gram of said solid mixed metal compound to 25 ml of 20 mmol l⁻¹ sodium phosphate buffer solution, homogenizing and gently agitating at room temperature for 30 minutes, centrifuging at 3000 rpm for 5 minutes, filtering through 0.22 µm millipore filter and measuring the soluble phosphate in the supernatant thus produced.

33. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said animal is a human.

34. (New) The method of claim 29 wherein said animal is a human.

35. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein said animal is a human.